

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 (currently amended). A tapered block copolymer with two or more blocks comprising:
 - a) 4 to 50 percent by weight of (meth)acrylic acid units; and
 - b) from 50 to 95 percent by weight of at least one non-acid ethylenically unsaturated monomer, wherein the copolymer is formed by free radical polymerization and wherein the copolymer is formed without the addition of a capping agent.
- 2 (original). The copolymer of claim 1 comprising at least 10 percent by weight of (meth)acrylic acid units.
- 3 (original). The copolymer of claim 1 comprising at least 15 percent by weight of (meth)acrylic acid units.
- 4 (original). The copolymer of claim 1 wherein said non-acid ethylenically unsaturated monomer is selected from the group consisting of styrene, vinyl acetate, methyl methacrylate, butyl acrylate, methyl acrylate, acrylonitrile, isopropylacrylamide, and mixtures thereof.
- 5 (cancelled).
- 6 (cancelled).
- 7 (cancelled).
- 8 (original). The copolymer of claim 1 wherein said copolymer has a weight average molecular weight of from 1,000 to 100,000.
- 9 (cancelled).
- 10 (cancelled).
- 11 (cancelled).
- 12 (cancelled).
- 13 (cancelled).
- 14 (cancelled).
- 15 (currently amended). A tapered block copolymer with two or more blocks comprising:
 - a) 4 to 50 percent by weight of (meth)acrylic acid units; and
 - b) from 50 to 95 percent by weight vinyl acetate, wherein the copolymer is formed by free radical polymerization and wherein the copolymer is formed without the addition of a capping agent.